UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/824,175	03/30/2001	Scott Shyh Guang Yen	M-11437 US	8273

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3623	

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DATE MAILED: 05/20/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM
THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.
- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed
  after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
  Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any
  earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *16 February 2005*.

2a)☒ This action is **FINAL**.   2b)☐ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is
     closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-4,6-11 and 13-17* is/are pending in the application.

   4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1-4,6-11 and 13-17* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

   Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

   Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

   a)☐ All   b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

   1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

   2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

   3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage
        application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

   * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1)☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2)☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3)☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
     Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.

4)☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
     Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .

5)☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

6)☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1.   This Final Office Action is responsive to applicant's amendment filed 16 February 2005. Claims 1, 7, 8, and 14-17 have been amended. Claims 1-4, 6-11 and 13-17 are pending in this application and have been examined on the merits as discussed below.

Response to Arguments

2.   Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-4, 7-11 and 13-17 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection. The Examiner notes that the independent claims (1, 7, 16 and 17) have all been amended. Applicant argues that the new features to the amended independent claims are not taught or suggested by Barkley (U.S. Patent 6,088,679) and Gabbita et al. (U.S. Patent 6,349,238) either combined or separately, and further asserts that there was no motivation to combine Barkley and Gabbita et al.

In response, Hollingsworth (Hollingsworth, Workflow Management Coalition: The Workflow Reference Model, Document Number TC00-1003, Issue 1.1, 19 January 1995 [GOOGLE]) teaches the new features to the independent claims. Hollingsworth teaches the standards and fundamentals of a workflow management system to include associating and updating reference data, parallel processing, invoked sub-processes, and conditional transitioning. In response to applicant's argument that there is no suggestion to combine the references, the examiner recognizes that obviousness can only be established by combining or modifying the teachings of the prior art to produce the claimed invention where there is some teaching, suggestion, or motivation to do so

found either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one

of ordinary skill in the art. See *In re Fine*, 837 F.2d 1071, 5 USPQ2d 1596 (Fed. Cir.

1988)and *In re Jones*, 958 F.2d 347, 21 USPQ2d 1941 (Fed. Cir. 1992). In this case,

Barkley teaches that it is old and well known in the art to automate a business process,

in whole or in part, during which documents, information or tasks are passed from one

participant to another for action, according to a set of procedural rules (col. 5, lines 45-

49). Gabbita et al. presents an efficient and economical system and method for

processing telecommunication orders and for managing and tracking the workflow

associated with processing orders for telecommunication services by providing a focal

point for the various organizations within the telecommunications company (Gabbita et

al.: col. 1, lines 46-64). Barkley and Gabbita et al. disclose workflow management and

their respective efficiency goals. Hollingsworth discloses the foundation and standards

for the workflow management systems, therefore, clearly one of ordinary skill in the art

would use the standards and roles in a practical application such as in the

telecommunications industry.

Please see the 35 U.S.C. 103(a) rejections below.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3.   The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all

obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set
> forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and
> the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the
> invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains.
> Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

4.   **Claims 1-4, 7-11, and 13-17** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being

unpatentable over Barkley (U.S. Patent 6,088,679) in view of Gabbita et al. (U.S. Patent

6,349,238) and further in view of Hollingsworth (Hollingsworth, Workflow Management

Coalition: The Workflow Reference Model, Document Number TC00-1003, Issue 1.1, 19

January 1995 [GOOGLE]). Barkley discloses a method for incorporating human-based

activities in business process models comprising:

- **[Claim 1]** defining an activity state, the activity state corresponding to a
  human-based or manual step (col. 4, lines 49-55, Barkley teaches an activity
  as a description of a piece of work that forms one logical step within a
  process. An activity is typically the smallest unit of work which is scheduled
  by a workflow engine during process enactment (e.g. using transition and
  pre/post-conditions), although one activity may result in several work items
  being assign (to a workflow participant).);

- identifying one or more performers for the activity state (col. 4, lines 9-29,
  Barkley teaches Role-Based Access Control (RBAS) is used to define
  membership of individuals in groups, i.e., to assign individuals to roles, to
  assign permission to roles, and to then activate the roles with respect to the
  process at appropriate points in the sequence.);

Barkley fails to teach designating a task associated with the activity state as

reassignable to indicate that the task may be moved between performers of the activity

state. Gabbita et al. teach means to coordinate all the tasks and activities related to

order processing among the various entities within the telecommunications company.

Work plans are used to model business procedures used for processing Service

Orders. Each Work Plan comprises a plurality of workflow steps. Business process

models are depicted as workflow diagrams and resources are individuals, groups,

and/or computer systems. Users can log-on to remote workstations attached to a

company-wide Intranet or the like. If a Service Order is delayed, users can immediately

determine information about the delay and take corrective action before it becomes critical. Workflow steps can be transferred and re-assigned using the remote workstations (col. 1, lines 65-67, col. 2, lines 22-25, lines 36-37, and lines 65-66, and col. 3, lines 7-10). Inherently a task is designated as reassignable since it is identified that the user can transfer and re-assign the workflow steps. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the applicant's invention to include the capability to re-assign a task of Gabbita et al. with Barkley since Barkley teaches that it is old and well known in the art to automate a business process, in whole or in part, during which documents, information or tasks are passed from one participant to another for action, according to a set of procedural rules (col. 5, lines 45-49). Workflow technology allows companies to reduce cost and improve efficiency of the operation. Role-Based Access Control (RBAC) is a methodology for controlling access to a computer system, whereby RBAC reduces administrative cost and complexity as compared to other access control mechanisms (Barkley: col. 2, lines 51-60). Gabbita et al. presents an efficient and economical system and method for processing telecommunication orders and for managing and tracking the workflow associated with processing orders for telecommunication services by providing a focal point for the various organizations within the telecommunications company (Gabbita et al.: col. 1, lines 46-64). Automation of business processes carried out substantially or entirely on computer systems, improve workflow management since the computer systems can coordinate all of the tasks and activities, monitor the activities for task completion, and

maintain accountability for task completion, therefore, incorporating workflow technology helps companies reduce cost and improve efficiency.

Barkley and Gabbita et al. fail to teach enabling reference data to be assigned with the activity state; identifying an additional task associated with the activity state to support concurrent activity states and applying the additional task to the activity state if the additional task is targeted to the activity state; conditionally transitioning out of the activity state upon completion of the task; and collecting reference data associated with the activity state. Hollingsworth teaches workflow is concerned with the automation of procedures where documents, information or tasks are passed between participants according to a defined set of rules to achieve, or contribute to, and overall business goal. Where process navigation decisions, or other control operations within the workflow engine, are based on data generated or updated by workflow application programs, such data is accessible to the workflow engine and termed workflow relevant data (also known as "case data"); this is the only type of application data accessible to the workflow engine. Workflow application data is manipulated directly (and only) by the invoked applications, although the workflow engine may be responsible for transferring such data between applications (if necessary), as different applications are invoked at different activity points within the workflow process. Workflow relevant data may be embedded in the work item and extracted from the work list for presentation to the user or for linkage to a particular application tool. The Connected Discrete (chained) model allows a connection point within process A to connect to another point within process B. This model supports the transfer of a single item of work (a process instance or activity)

between the two workflow environments, which then operates independently in the second environment with no further synchronization. The Hierarchical (Nested Sub processes) allows a process executed in a particular workflow domain to be completely encapsulated as a single task within a (superior) process executed in a different workflow domain. Workflow Service A has an activity defined which is enacted as a complete process (B) on Workstation Service B with control returned to Service A on completion. AND-Split is when a single thread of control splits into two or more parallel activities. Transition condition is the criteria for moving, or state transitioning, from the current activity to the next activity(s) in a process instance be it manual or automated (workflow) (Para 2.1, 2.3, 3.3.6, 3.7.2, 3.7.3 and Appendix-Glossary of Terms and Abbreviations). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the applicant's invention to invoke the Workflow Reference Model of Hollingsworth since Barkley teaches the workflow specified by a process definition is managed by a workflow management system (col. 4, lines 14-16). Using a common and industry recognized reference to communicate knowledge helps facilitate understanding, therefore is an efficient means to getting ones ideas understood. Barkley defines and uses the same terms as defined by and used by Hollingsworth, therefore, contributing to a common base of understanding so ideas can be efficiently communicated.

- **[Claim 2]** the step of defining reference data, the reference data being information that is to be made available to the performers of the activity state (Barkley: col. 6, lines 35-41, Barkley teaches each role has access to stored documents).

- **[Claim 3]** the reference data is made exclusively available to the performers of the activity state (Barkley: col. 5, lines 20-31, Barkley teaches a role has

authority and responsibility, therefore, permission(s) associated with that role grants access to a resource.).

- **[Claim 4]** the reference data is also made available to performers of a second activity state (Barkley: col. 6, line 63 through to col. 7, line 37, Barkley teaches parallel routings where users are assigned unique roles and perform their respective task with the information concurrently.).

- **[Claim 7]** receiving an event (Barkley: col. 4, lines 9-29, Barkley teaches a business process can be partitioned into a sequential or parallel routing segment that has one or more activities. The workflow management system enacts each segment in the order specified by the process definition.);

- causing a business process object to transition to an activity state corresponding to the event, wherein the activity state includes a data structure that comprises business process object reference data (Barkley: col. 4, lines 48-55, col. 5, lines 5-8, 32-36, and 45 through to col. 6, line 5, and col. 6, lines 23-41, Barkley teaches a business process to be automated is partitioned into a sequence of sequential routing segments and parallel routing segments where a sequential routing segment has one or more activities which must proceed in a strictly sequential manner and a parallel routing segment has two or more activities which can proceed in parallel. An activity describes a piece of work that forms one logical step within a process and is typically the smallest unit of work which is scheduled by a workflow engine. The Workflow Management System defines, creates and manages the execution of workflows through the use of software, which is able to interpret the process definition, interact with workflow participants and, where required, invoke the use of information technology tools and applications. The workflow specified by a process definition is managed by a workflow management system, which enacts each segment in the order specified by the process definition. RBAC (Role-Based Access Control) defines membership of individuals in groups, i.e. to assign individuals to roles, assign permission to roles, and then activate the roles with respect to the process at appropriate points in the sequence; and is used as the basis for a workflow management system. Access to objects is managed at a level corresponding closely to the organization's structure. Each user is assigned one or more "roles", and each "role" is assigned one or more "permissions" that are authorized for users in that role. Permissions consist principally of the opportunity to perform operations within the activity of the workflow. In this connection, "operations" includes "permissions" required to access objects within the protected system, such as stored documents, or to perform certain activities defined as part of the workflow.);

- identifying one or more performers for the activity state (Barkley: col. 6, lines 23-41, Barkley teaches that in a RBAC system, access to objects is managed at a level corresponding closely to the organization's structure. Each user is assigned one or more "roles", and each "role" is assigned one or more "permissions" that are authorized for users in that role. The operations provided for each role correspond to the duties and responsibilities of the person having that role in the organization.);

- creating a task for each performer, the task designated as reassignable to indicate that the task may be transferred between performers of the activity state and further designated with a lime limit indicating a deadline for completion of the task (Barkley: col. 4, lines 9-29 and col. 6, lines 34-41, Barkley teaches the RBAC is used to define membership of individuals in groups, i.e. to assign individuals to roles, and then to activate the roles with respect to the process at appropriate points in the sequence. The subjects can then perform operations as assigned to the roles. In this connection, "operations: includes "permissions" required to perform certain activities defined as part of the workflow. Gabbita et al.: col. 1, lines 65-67, col. 2, lines 22-25, lines 36-37, and lines 65-66, and col. 3, lines 7-10, col. 11, lines 16-17, Gabbita et al. teach means to coordinate all the tasks and activities related to order processing among the various entities within the telecommunications company. Work plans are used to model business procedures used for processing Service Orders. Each Work Plan comprises a plurality of workflow steps. Business process models are depicted as workflow diagrams and resources are individuals, groups, and/or computer systems. Users can log-on to remote workstations attached to a company-wide Intranet or the like. If a Service Order is delayed, users can immediately determine information about the delay and take corrective action before it becomes critical. Workflow steps can be transferred and re-assigned using the remote workstations. Viewing the In-Box is one way in which users are notified of the assignment and its associated due date.);

- applying the task to the activity state if the task is targeted to the activity state (Hollingsworth: Para 3.7.3, Hollingsworth teaches the Hierarchical (Nested Sub processes) allows a process executed in a particular workflow domain to be completely encapsulated as a single task within a (superior) process executed in a different workflow domain. Workflow Service A has an activity defined which is enacted as a complete process (B) on Workstation Service B with control returned to Service A on completion.);

- completing the task, wherein any changes made to the business process reference data during completion of the task are collected (Gabbita et al.: col. 30, lines 35-49, Gabbita et al. teach a History File of significant events that occur with the system as it pertains to each Service Order. The events

include transaction processing activities, system access information, and administrative manipulation of system data. History File data for Work Steps include actual step completion times as well as planned start and finish times.); and

- updating the business process object reference data to incorporate any changes that were made during execution of the activity state (Gabbita et al.: col. 30, lines 35-49, Gabbita et al. teach a History File of significant events that occur with the system as it pertains to each Service Order. The events include transaction processing activities, system access information, and administrative manipulation of system data. History File data for Work Steps include actual step completion times as well as planned start and finish times.).

- **[Claim 8]** if the allotted time limit to complete a task expires the business process object transitions from the activity state (Gabbita et al.: col. 12, lines 23-36, Gabbita et al. teach Jeopardy points identify tasks in the Work Plan that have deadlines and carry a degree of risk. Should a deadline pass, the order is in jeopardy of missing the due date and the Resources assigned to unfinished tasks are alerted to this risk by the escalation process. Once any Jeopardy point defined for a Work Plan is missed, the escalation process places all of the remaining Work Steps for the Work Plan in a Jeopardy state and elevates the priority of the Work Plan.).

- **[Claim 9]** providing each performer with reference data for the activity state (Barkley: col. 6, lines 35-41, Barkley teaches each role has access to stored documents.).

- **[Claim 10]** the reference data is made exclusively available to the performers of the activity state (Barkley: col. 5, lines 20-31, Barkley teaches a role has authority and responsibility, therefore, permission(s) associated with that role grants access to a resource.).

- **[Claim 11]** the reference data is also made available to the performers of a second activity state (Barkley: col. 6, line 63 through to col. 7, line 37, Barkley teaches parallel routings where users are assigned unique roles and perform their respective task with the information concurrently.).

- **[Claim 13]** the step of conditionally selecting a transition out of the activity state based on the changed reference data (Barkley: col. 7, line 52 through to col. 8, line 64, Barkley teaches via an example the role once assigned performs the activity. The successful completion on the activity results in the creation of the next activity and removal of the completed role from the

assignment allowing the new activity to proceed. The new activity receives the first completed activity information to complete their role.).

- **[Claim 14]** receiving a second event; and ensuring that the events are applied to the correct activity state by applying the second event to the activity state only if the second event is targeted to the activity state (Barkley: col. 6, line 63 through to col. 7, line 37, col. 7, line 52 through to col. 8, line 64, Barkley teaches parallel routings where users are assigned unique roles and perform their respective task with the information concurrently. The role once assigned performs the activity. The successful completion on the activity results in the creation of the next activity and removal of the completed role from the assignment allowing the new activity to proceed. The new activity receives the first completed activity information to complete their role. All activities are related to one task. Gabbita et al.: col. 13, lines 7-14, Gabbita et al. teach pending Work Orders are viewed in an "In-Box" and all Service Orders that are Expedited or in a Jeopardy status are displayed in a distinctive color for ready identification by users.).

- **[Claim 15]** selecting reference data changed by the at least one performer and merging it with the associated business process object (Gabbita et al.: col. 30, lines 35-49, Gabbita et al. teach a History File of significant events that occur with the system as it pertains to each Service Order. The events include transaction processing activities, system access information, and administrative manipulation of system data. History File data for Work Steps include actual step completion times as well as planned start and finish times.).

- **[Claim 16]** defining state, the state corresponding to either an automated step or a human-based step (Gabbita et al.: col. 2, lines 22-43, Gabbita et al. teaches Work Plans are used to model business procedures used for processing Service Orders. Each Work Plan comprises a plurality of workflow steps. Whenever a Service Order is received the appropriate Work Plan to process the order is selected based on information contained with the Service Order itself. Each workflow step is assigned a Resource and is scheduled for completion. Resources are individuals, groups and/or computer systems. The examiner interprets workflow step to be either an automated step (computer system) or a human-based step (individual or group) as identified by the Work Plan.);

- if the state is defined as an automated step, performing the activity to be achieved in the state through the use of an application program to complete the step (Barkley: col. 5, lines 50-55, Barkley teaches the Workflow Management System defines, creates and manages the execution of workflows through the use of software, running on one or more workflow

engines, which is able to interpret the process definition, interact with workflow participants, and, where required, invoke the use of information technology tools and applications.),

- performing an additional activity to be achieved in the state if the additional activity is targeted to the state, wherein the targeting of the additional activity comprises at least one of naming a corresponding concurrent activity state and specifying an activity parameter (Hollingsworth: Para 3.7.3 and 3.7.5, Hollingsworth teaches the Hierarchical (Nested Sub processes) allows a process executed in a particular workflow domain to be completely encapsulated as a single task within a (superior) process executed in a different workflow domain. Workflow Service A has an activity defined which is enacted as a complete process (B) on Workstation Service B with control returned to Service A on completion. The Parallel Synchronized model allows two processes to operate essentially independently but require that synchronization points exist between the two processes. This may be used to facilitate functions such as process scheduling across parallel execution threads, checkpointing of recovery data or the transfer of workflow relevant data between different process instances.),and

- if the state is defined as a human based step, modeling the state using an activity state, wherein one or more performers are employed to complete the step (Barkley: col. 4, lines 9-29 and col. 6, lines 34-41, Barkley teaches the RBAC is used to define membership of individuals in groups, i.e. to assign individuals to roles, and then to activate the roles with respect to the process at appropriate points in the sequence. The subjects can then perform operations as assigned to the roles. In this connection, "operations: includes "permissions" required to perform certain activities defined as part of the workflow.).

- **[Claim 17]** receiving an event (Barkley: col. 4, lines 9-29, Barkley teaches a business process can be partitioned into a sequential or parallel routing segment that has one or more activities. The workflow management system enacts each segment in the order specified by the process definition.);

- causing a business process object to transition to an activity state corresponding to the human based event (Barkley: col. 4, lines 48-55, col. 5, lines 5-8, 32-36, and 45 through to col. 6, line 5, and col. 6, lines 23-41, Barkley teaches a business process to be automated is partitioned into a sequence of sequential routing segments and parallel routing segments where a sequential routing segment has one or more activities which must proceed in a strictly sequential manner and a parallel routing segment has two or more activities which can proceed in parallel. An activity describes a piece of work that forms one logical step within a process and is typically the

smallest unit of work which is scheduled by a workflow engine. The Workflow Management System defines, creates and manages the execution of workflows through the use of software, which is able to interpret the process definition, interact with workflow participants and, where required, invoke the use of information technology tools and applications. The workflow specified by a process definition is managed by a workflow management system, which enacts each segment in the order specified by the process definition. RBAC (Role-Based Access Control) defines membership of individuals in groups, i.e. to assign individuals to roles, assign permission to roles, and then activate the roles with respect to the process at appropriate points in the sequence; and is used as the basis for a workflow management system. Access to objects is managed at a level corresponding closely to the organization's structure. Each user is assigned one or more "roles", and each "role" is assigned one or more "permissions" that are authorized for users in that role. Permissions consist principally of the opportunity to perform operations within the activity of the workflow. In this connection, "operations" includes "permissions" required to access objects within the protected system, such as stored documents, or to perform certain activities defined as part of the workflow.);

- identifying one or more performers for the human based event (Barkley: col. 6, lines 23-41, Barkley teaches that in a RBAC system, access to objects is managed at a level corresponding closely to the organization's structure. Each user is assigned one or more "roles", and each "role" is assigned one or more "permissions" that are authorized for users in that role. The operations provided for each role correspond to the duties and responsibilities of the person having that role in the organization.); and

- creating a task for each performer, wherein each performer can trigger additional events as a result of task operation, as needed (Gabbita et al.: col. 1, lines 65-67, col. 2, lines 22-25, lines 36-37, and lines 65-66, col. 3, lines 7-10, and col. 11, lines 16-21, Gabbita et al. teach means to coordinate all the tasks and activities related to order processing among the various entities within the telecommunications company. Work plans are used to model business procedures used for processing Service Orders. Each Work Plan comprises a plurality of workflow steps. Business process models are depicted as workflow diagrams. Resources are individuals, groups, and/or computer systems. Users can log-on to remote workstations attached to a company-wide Intranet or the like. Viewing the In-Box is one way in which users are notified of the assignment and its associated due date. If a Service Order is delayed, users can immediately determine information about the delay and take corrective action before it becomes critical. Workflow steps can be transferred and re-assigned using the remote workstations. The examiner interprets that when a user is working on a Work Plan, they can

transfers or re re-assigns a workflow step, which will trigger an additional step of at least notifying the new designated performer by placing the new work step in their In-Box.); and

-   performing an additional task to be achieved in the activity state if the additional task is targeted to the state (Hollingsworth: Para 3.7.3, Hollingsworth teaches the Hierarchical (Nested Sub processes) allows a process executed in a particular workflow domain to be completely encapsulated as a single task within a (superior) process executed in a different workflow domain. Workflow Service A has an activity defined which is enacted as a complete process (B) on Workstation Service B with control returned to Service A on completion.).

5.   **Claim 6** is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Barkley (U.S. Patent No. 6,088,679), Gabbita et al. (U.S. Patent 6,349,238), and Hollingsworth (Hollingsworth, Workflow Management Coalition: The Workflow Reference Model, Document Number TC00-1003, Issue 1.1, 19 January 1995 [GOOGLE]) in view of Kiely (Kiely, XML: More Than Just A Quick Fix, InformationWeek Online, 8 February 1999 [GOOGLE]).   Barkley, Gabbita et al. and Hollingsworth disclose a method for incorporating human-based activities in business process models but fails to disclose the business process model is created using Uniform Modeling Language constructs. Barkley teaches the Workflow Management System is a system that defines, creates and manages the execution of workflows through the use of software which is able to interpret the process definition, interact with the workflow participants and, where required, invoke the use of information technology tools and applications (col. 5, lines 50-55).   Kiely teaches the Uniform Modeling Language as fast becoming the standard means of modeling software projects (Para 20).   It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the applicant's invention to use the Uniform

Modeling Language of Kiely with the teachings of Barkley, Gabbita et al. and Hollingsworth because Barkley teaches an improved automation of business processes carried out substantially or entirely on computer systems (col. 1, lines 10-15). Time is money to businesses. Software specifically designed for a type of application minimizes the time for programming. The Uniform Modeling Language is designed for modeling software projects, therefore, as applied to business model projects, will minimize the programming time resulting in reduced cost and cycle time.

Conclusion

6.   Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the Examiner should be directed to Michael C. Heck whose telephone number is (571) 272-6730. The Examiner can normally be reached Monday thru Friday between the hours of 8:30am - 4:30pm. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Tariq R. Hafiz can be reached on (571) 273-6729.

Any response to this action should be mailed to:

Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Or faxed to:

(703) 872-9306   [Official communications; including After Final communications labeled "**Box AF**"]

(571) 273-6730   [Informal/Draft communication, labeled "**PROPOSED**" or "**DRAFT**"]

mch
16 May 2005

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